

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 21470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, TH, MY, VN

SUBJ: FOURTH ARMY COMMANDER COMMENTS ON PENANG MEETING AND FOREIGN
MINISTER'S TRIP TO HANOI

REF: SONGKHLA 182

QUOTE

FOL MSG SENT BKK JUL 29, 1976 RPT UR INFO.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, TH, MY, VN

SUBJECT: FOURTH ARMY COMMANDER COMMENTS ON PENANG MEETING AND
FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP TO HANOI

1.IN CONVERSATION IN HAT YAI JULY 28, FOURTH ARMY COMMANDER LT. GEN.
SAN CHITPATIMA, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER TO PENANG MEETINGS
WITH MALAYSIANS, SAID LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE CONCERNING THAI-
MALAYSIAN BORDER AGREEMENT WAS DECIDED DURING THE TRIP. SAN SAID
VISIT WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE THE TWO PMS OPPORTUNITY TO GET ACQUAINTED
AND TO SOOTHE MALAYSIANS' CONCERN OVER OUSTER OF THEIR PARAMILITARY
FORCES FROM BETONG SALIENT. BORDER AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED IN
GENERAL TERMS BUT DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. NEWSPAPAER
ACCOUNTS REFERRING TO MALAYSIAN AGREEMENT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST
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SEPARATISTS ARE MISLEADING. SAN SAID MALAYSIANS DENIED SUPPORTING

SEPARATISTS AND ARGUED THEY HAD NO CONTROL OVER THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND. MALAYSIANS RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO CONSIDER LANGUAGE REFERRING TO WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST INSURGENTS AND " OTHER SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS. " SAN THOUGHT THIS GENERAL REFERENCE, WHICH BOTH SIDES UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN SEPARATISTS, MIGHT BE EASIER FOR MALAYSIANS TO SELL DOMESTICALLY.

2. IN PENANG, SAN ALSO DISCUSSED TRIP TO HANOI WITH F.M. PHICHAI. MAIN OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO OPEN A LINE OF COMMUNICATION. THAIS DO NOT BELIEVE OVERTURE WILL HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON REDUCING VIETNAMESE SUPPORT TO THAI INSURGENTS. SAN SAID PHICHAI PLANS TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ON AGREEMENT. HE SAID RTG HAS IDENTIFIED 200-300 REFUGEES IN NORTHEAST WHOM THEY CONSIDER " DANGEROUS AGENTS " AND WOULD LIKE TO GET RID OF THEM FIRST.

3. SAN ALSO DISCOURSED AT LENGTH ON PROBLEMS OF LEFTIST STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WHICH HE NOW FEELS ARE MOST SERIOUS THREAT TO RTG. (SEPARATE MEMCON TO FOLLOW.)

HAMILTON
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WHITEHOUSE

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